



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairperson and Authority Members **Date:** November 30, 2009
From: Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director
Subject: Agenda Item 5 –MOU with Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART)

Discussion:

The project-level EIR/EIS work on the Altamont Corridor Rail Project began in October. The Authority and regional partners are proposing to develop a dedicated regional rail corridor through the Altamont Pass and the Tri Valley area capable of supporting intercity and commuter rail passenger services. This project is a separate corridor project from the statewide HST system. The California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is the state lead agency on the Altamont Corridor Rail Project for purposes of compliance with CEQA. BART is one of the regional partners on this project and is currently conducting program-level environmental work for a system extension to Livermore. BART is interested in working cooperatively with the Authority to serve mutual objectives regarding the preparation of project-level EIR/EIS documents, and the extension of the BART system to Livermore potentially connecting with the intercity and commuter rail passenger services.

As outlined in the Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), BART and the Authority acknowledge and agree to coordinate and to work cooperatively to complete the environmental reviews for their respective complimentary projects. BART will conduct the environmental review in connection with the proposed BART Livermore Extension Project. CHSRA will be the state lead agency on the environmental review of the Altamont Corridor Rail Project for purposes of compliance with CEQA. Each party agrees to encourage public awareness of and involvement in the environmental review processes in which the agencies are engaged.

Authority staff worked with BART staff to develop the attached Draft MOU to work cooperatively throughout the preparation of project-level Altamont Corridor Rail Project EIR/EIS documents and the environmental review of the BART Livermore Extension Project.

There is agreement between the Authority staff and BART staff in regards to the main points described in the draft MOU. The Authority's legal counsel has reviewed the draft.

Recommendation:

Authority staff request authorization for the Executive Director to enter into an MOU with BART to coordinate and to work cooperatively to complete the environmental reviews for their respective complimentary projects in the Livermore area, as generally described above and in the draft MOU.